

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----251026Z 035829 /12
O 250930Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 266

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 8041

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC FOR ARMACOST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: PERIMETER SECURITY ARRANGMENTS AT CLARK AND SUBIC

SUMMARY: I HOPE OUR CURRENT DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESS CONCERNING THE MOST RECENT "GUARD-DOG BITES FILIPINO" EPISODE AT CLARK AIR BASE MAY SERVE TO DEFUSE THIS PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AND POLITICALLY, CHARGED INCIDENT, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' EXPRESS INTEREST TO RESPOND WITH A BROAD-GAUGED PACKAGE OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO EFFECT A BASIC AND LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN PERIMETER SECURITY AT THE BASES WITH APPROPRIATE PHILIPPINE ASSISTANCE. THIS WE SHOULD HAVE DONE LONG SINCE, AND A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES WERE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABORTIVE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THE TANTALIZING PROSPECT OF RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS HAS TENDED TO IMMOBILIZE ANY ACTION, EVEN PLANNING IN THAT DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 23 MARCOS RAISED WITH ME A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED AND POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE INCIDENT IN WHICH A FILIPINO TRESPASSER

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AT THE CLARK AB GARBAGE DUMP WAS BITTEN BY USAF PATROL DOG. MARCOS ASKED, "CAN'T YOU GET YOUR PEOPLE OFF THAT PRACTICE? I KNOW THEY HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT THIS INCIDENT IS GOING TO CAUSE ME A LOT OF TROUBLE. PERHAPS WE CAN HELP YOU WITH CONTROL OF THE BASE PERIPHERY. THINGS ARE DIFFICULT ENOUGH WITHOUT INCIDENTS LIKE THIS." I REPLIED WE CERTAINLY SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE, MODIFY AND CORRECT SUCH

SITUATIONS. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FREEZE ALL IMPROVEMENTS PENDING NEGOTIATIONS.

2. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT A USAF SECURITY POLICE SERGEANT AND HIS LEASHED MILITARY WORKING DOG WERE PATROLLING AN AREA NEAR THE GARBAGE DUMP WHEN THE DOG ALERTED ON A SMALL HILLOCK NEARBY. THE SERGEANT CALLED OUT SUSPECTING AN INTRUDER. WHEN NO ANSWER WAS RECEIVED THE SERGEANT AND HIS LEASHED DOG PROCEEDED INTO A SMALL DEPRESSION WHERE, DUE TO THE UNEVEN GROUND, LOOSE DIRT AND POOR VISIBILITY, THE SERGEANT FELL. WHEN HE GOT UP, HE FOUND THAT THE DOG, STILL ON THE LEASH, HAD ENCOUNTERED AN INTRUDER WHO WAS KICKING AT THE DOG. IT WAS LATER DETERMINED THAT THE DOG HAD BITTEN THE INTRUDER ON THE SCROTUM AND THE LOWER PORTION OF BOTH LEGS. THE MANILA PRESS PLAYED UP THE INCIDENT INDICATING THAT THE INTRUDER HAD SURRENDERED BY THROWING UP BOTH ARMS BUT THAT THE SERGEANT THEN COMMANDED THE DOG TO ATTACK. THE SERGEANT INVOLVED DISCLAIMS THIS VERSION OF THE INCIDENT. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 PATROL AND SENTRY DOGS USED IN THE CLARK SECURITY PROGRAM. THE DOGS ARE UNMUZZLED BUT ON A 10-FOOT LEASH AND UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF A USAF SECURITY POLICEMAN. A SIMILAR SITUATION PREVAILS AT SUBIC, BUT AT SUBIC THE DOGS ARE MUZZLED, EXCEPT IN THE MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA, AND IN ALL CASES CONTROLLED BY FILIPINO GUARDS.)

3. THE EMOTION-CHARGED ISSUE AT CLARK CONTINUES TO BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PHILIPPINE PRESS, WITH SOME EDITORIALS IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. HAS A DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN
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RIGHTS. THUS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE DEMONSTRATE QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE STANDARD IN HUMAN RIGHTS; THAT IT IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE AND THAT WE WILL BE UNCOMPROMISING IN OUR ADHERENCE TO IT.

4. CONCERNING SENTRY AND PATROL DOGS OPERATIONS AT THE BASES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE BROADER QUESTION OF PERIMETER SECURITY, THE COMMANDERS AT CLARK AND SUBIC ARE REVIEWING ON A PRIORITY BASIS ALL CURRENT PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MARCOS' OFFER TO HELP. SOME OF THE COURSES OF ACTION WHICH WILL BE EXAMINED SOONEST ARE:

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NSC FOR ARMACOST.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----251030Z 035958 /12
O 250930Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 267

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 8041

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC FOR ARMACOST

A. THE MUZZLING OF ALL SENTRY AND GUARD DOGS AT CLARK AS AN
IMMEDIATE INTERIM MEASURE;
B) BRINGING FILIPINO GUARDS INTO THE CLARK SENTRY AND PATROL

DOG PROGRAM, SO THAT WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, SAY 60
DAYS, ALL DOGS WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF FILIPINO HANDLERS,
AS IS NOW THE CASE AT SUBIC;

C) UNDERTAKING TO BRING GREATER FILIPINO PARTICIPATION INTO
SECURITY OPERATIONS ON THE BASE PERIMETERS. ONE APPROACH
WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A SECURITY BUFFER AROUND THE CORE AREA
OF EACH BASE WITH FILIPINO GUARDS MANNING THE OUTER FENCE
AND U.S. GUARDS THE INNER FENCE. (ALTERNATIVELY THE BASES
MIGHT PREFER TO ESTABLISH A JOINT US/RP SECURITY FORCE TO
WATCH THE BUFFER ZONE.)

5. I WOULD HOPE TO BRIEF MARCOS IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THE
INITIAL STEPS WE WILL BE TAKING TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER
INCIDENTS SUCH AS OCCURRED AT CLARK THE NIGHT OF MAY 16.
MORE IMPORTANTLY WE SEE THIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE
GOP TO IMPROVE PERIMETER SECURITY AT THE BASES AND BELIEVE
THAT WE CAN FIND WAYS TO DO SO WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY
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EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW BASE AGREEMENT.

6. MEANWHILE, I HAVE WRITTEN TO MARCOS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: DURING OUR DISCUSSION MAY

23 YOU REFERED WITH SOME DISMAY TO THE REPORT OF AN INCIDENT OF A GUARD DOG'S ALLEGEDLY ATTACKING SCAVENGERS AT CLARK AIR BASE. I SHARE YOUR DISMAY FOR ANY SUCH INCIDENT. AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN, AND THE PRELIMINARY REPORT IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAM FROM CLARK AIR BASE TO CINCPAC AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. ALSO ENCLOSED IS THE TEXT OF AN INITIAL PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MATTER RELEASED BY ME YESTERDAY.

I SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THIS CASE. IN PARTICULAR I HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF YOUR SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS THE PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES CAN HELP WITH CONTROL OF THE BASE PERIMETER. WE SHALL EXAMINE THIS POSSIBILITY IN DETAIL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CORDIAL RECEPTION OF MIKE ARMACOST. AS ALWAYS, I ENJOYED AND LEARNED FROM PARTICIPATING.

WITH RESPECT AND VERY BEST WISHES,
SINCERELY, LEE T. STULL, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. END QUOTE.

7. TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE MENTIONED ABOVE IS:

BEGIN TEXT. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE ALLEGED USE OF A GUARD DOG AGAINST A SCAVENGER TRESPASSING AT CLARK AIR BASE. THE FACTS OF THIS CASE ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, AS TO THE PRINCIPLE OF WHERE THE UNITED STATES STANDS IF A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ESTABLISHED, THE ANSWER IS CLEAR, AND WAS PUBLICLY STATED IN MY SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT),

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IN MANILA, MAY 22: "OUR POLICY IS TO BE APPLIED WITHIN OUR OWN SOCIETY AS WELL AS ABROAD. WE WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AT THE SAME TIME AS WE OFFER IT." END TEXT.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ABOVE RELEASE WAS GIVEN FAVORABLE FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION IN THE LEADING MANILA DAILIES.
STULL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NSC FOR ARMACOST.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP
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